

Leicester Square London 4th May
1776 Richard Clerkling
emrloffin

Dear Brother,

The account brought a few days since of the unexpected removal of the troops from Boston has filled me with distressing consultations for my friends that I left in that place, and especially for you, and your family; your letter of 14th March w^{ch} I received last Evening has given me some relief, as I have the pleasure to find by it, that you kept up your spirits in so good a measure, however I can't help feeling very uneasy apprehensions of the difficulties you have to struggle with. I pray God to keep you & yours under his gracious protection and guidance. You don't mention anything particular of Lister, but I presume she had happily got through her difficulties; I beg you w^d present my affectionate regards to her, and my Cousins -

I have since I have been here wrote you many letters, and have, as I remember, generally wrote Mr. & Mrs. Bromfield at the same time under cover to you. If any of them should come to your hands, you will have ^{been} advised of what has occurred to me, and some of my children since I left you, but so fast by the change of your situation my letters should have failed reaching you, I would just mention, that I had a short and comfortable passage of 23 days to Dover, and on my arrival in London found that both my Sons had arrived at Bristol, with their ^{Teacher} ~~offer~~ from ~~Cambridge~~ ^{Truro}; and that Mr. Copley had returned from Italy, and that my Daughter & the Children were

were all in good health - I have now to advise you, that my sons
have both, within these few days left us, to return to the place they came
from, they are appointed assistant Commissioners, with a stipend of twenty
shillings each per day, whilst in service, and I have good reason to think
they will afterwards have half pay. Son Isaac went out with Mr. Brock
Watson in his Ship Canadian, & Son Isaac in the Ship Quebec Capt
Brash; both Ships are well fortified, and have troops aboard; what will
be the event of their enterprise, is known only to the Sovereign Disposer of
all things, to Him I commit them, I think they are in the way of their
duty - I advised you early that I had received your draft on Mr. Hayley
and deposited the same in Parker's hands; and that I should reserve
it for your order. I have told you frequently of some provisions that
I was shipping in a Donation Ship, that I found on my arrival was intended
then to sail soon for Boston with supplies w^{ch} were raised by subscription
for the Army; This Vessel by some unaccountable delay, did not leave
London till three Months after the time first given out; & I have heard
within these few days that she is still at Portsmouth waiting for
the sailing of the grand fleet, if this report is true, it may perhaps
be the means of saving this valuable Ship from falling into wrong
hands; the name of this Ship is the Cherown the Master's name
I have forgot. The articles which I shipped by this Vessel, and some
of them, which could not be got aboard her, and went by another
vessel which left this place soon after the Cherown, and were shipped
one half on your acct, the other on Mr. Bronfido's, and went
under

under the name of your Friend Major Smelt, the Invoice of them
and the receipts I forwarded to you, by the respective Vessel, the
names of the Ship & Master I don't at present recollect, but if the
arrives where you may be, my letter by her will inform you of the
needful. The Articles sent, were Beef, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Candles,
Lewat, Pease, Tripe, and some potatoes were provided, but could not
be got aboard either Vessel, and I fear this last article is lost. I have
not received an exact account of their cost & charges, but estimate
your half to amount to £15 or 16. If their adventure should come
to your hands, you'll be accountable to Mrs Brownfield for one
half the proceeds, I fear that through the long detention of the
Hannover, some of the Articles may spoil. I did all in my power
to send you out some speedy supplies, and am sorry I had no better
success, no freight is payable to either Vessel. I also ship you
under the care of Mrs Portland who designed out in the Hannover a
box which was directed to that Gentleman from Mr Clarke & out 2
shoes for my Cousin, & 1 shoe for my daughter Brownfield, and a bottle
Laf. Volatile, and 1 1/2 Phial ork packed by it self. that Gentleman fell
sick at Liverpool, but I heard that he forwarded these articles
by some other passenger, I also sent you 3 pairs of shoes for your
self by Mrs Brinsley who sailed about a fortnight since in the Hancock
Capt Mowat, The cost of the aforesaid is something more than £5 -
the remainder of your money will rest for your orders. I find it diffi-
cult to improve money safely on private security, & under the present
situation

situation of affairs, many people think, that Stocks must fall -

If any of my letters to Mr or Mrs Bromfield should come to your hands, I beg your care of them untill they can be safely conveyed, and if no such opportunity should offer that you would burn them. If Coy Benjⁿ Davis, or Coy Minot should be with you please to inform that I have wrote each of them advising that I had rec^d payment for their Bils, and that their money rests in ^{their} ~~their~~ hands. If you can any ways convey any intelligence to Mr Bromfield or his Wife, please to let them know that it is my advice to them, not to come to England, if they ^{can} possibly stay in America, which I think they may do in some place or other. Please to give my love to Brother Oliver & Coy Denny Clarke who I hear is gone with the Judges, and my compliments to the Gentlemen of my acquaintance who may be with you, & particularly to Mr Fanciel & his Lady. I have wrote Mr Fanciel under cover to you by some of the Gentlemen who design out with Lord Howe. It's thought that many of the refugees from Boston will come here, I hope if any of my Friends design it, they will be aware of the unavoidable expence, which must accrue. - As to Public Affairs, I must beg leave to refer you to those who have a more certain knowledge of them than I can pretend to; and have now only time or paper, but to add my hearty wishes for the comfort and happiness of you & your family. I am

Dear Sir Your affectionate Brother
Richard Clarke